

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:
Mrs R Rice

14a The Square North Tawton
EX20 2EP
Tel 01837 880121

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the **Council Offices** on **Thursday 12th February 2015 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllr S Blood Cllr Dr P Brickley
 Cllr Mrs C Burrow Cllr A Gillespie
 Cllr K Hodge Mrs G Hoggins (Chair)
 Cllr I MacLeod Cllr S Whiteley

Open Forum – No members of the public raised any concerns.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr N Morgan (family commitments), Cllr Mrs D Rice (family commitments), Cllr Mrs L Watts (bereavement) and Cllr Mrs A Ponsford (dog)

After some discussion it was resolved that Cllr N Morgan's, Cllrs Mrs D Rice's and Cllr Mrs L Watts' apologies should be accepted, in accordance with the Standing Orders 1t, but that Cllr Mrs A Ponsford's apology, should not be accepted. (5 votes to 3 votes), as a full explanation i.e. no one else could care for the dog, had not been provided.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Dr P Brickley and Cllr S Blood declared an interest in Item 11 Access to rear of properties via Flood Alleviation Land, North Street, North Tawton.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

- 3.1 The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 13th January 2015, previously circulated were agreed and signed.
- 3.2 The Minutes of the North Tawton Town Council Planning Committee Tuesday 27th January 2015, previously circulated were agreed and signed.

4. **Updates**

- 4.1 The Chairman and Clerk updated the Council on various issues.
 - DALC has notified the Council that the Government would not be capped.
 - Response received from WDBC regarding out letter on their Transformation Programme which states that their review was firmly internally focused and should not affect town and parish councils. No decision has been made yet regarding the withdrawal of paper copies of planning applications and plans to town and parish councils.
 - Response received from Okehampton Town Council regarding Destination Okehampton, stating that the terms of the consultancy proposed will not be finalised until there is a clearer picture of the tenor of the revised Network Rail study.
 - No response has been received from the North Tawton Town Hall Management Committee regarding their rules and regulations.
- 4.2 Cllr Dr. P Brickley gave a brief update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project.
 - The project is going really well, there will be two more public events before the group starts drafting policies.
 - Finalising the evidence base has been put on the back burner for a while.
 - The first event will be on 21st February 2015 there will be a public meeting in the Town Hall 9.30 am – 11.45 am.
 - Monday 16th February 2015 the project group would be considering 5 further sites that have been submitted. Technical analysis on 3 of these sites have

already been done by WDBC, the other 2 sites were too late to be considered by WDBC.

- The second event is a joint consultation with West Devon Borough Council planned for 21st March (Town Hall 10 am – 4 pm). West Devon will be consulting on the new Borough Wide Plan and we shall be seeking resident's views on our proposed project principles i.e. its overall aims, and vision for the town going forward and a set of objectives to achieve that vision.
- We will be coming back to the April Town Council meeting.
- Received WDBC's draft Housing Needs Survey, which surprisingly has a main message of NIL requirements for affordable housing, but Alex Rehaag has said that by the time the Batheway site is finished the situation may be different.
- Mr Geoff Cawse, agent for the Bouchers Hill site has asked for technical evidence of the highways issues for this site. Mr Cawse has stated he cannot see this evidence on WDBC's website and he is proposing to submit an outline application for this site now.

4.3 Cllr I MacLeod and Cllr S Blood gave a brief update regarding Denbrook.

- Cllr I MacLeod has submitted an article for the Roundabout on the LED scheme.
- Denbrook Community Liaison Group has received a copy of the RES's Community Fund final document. The document refers to "best endeavours", it is not watertight. RES have indicated that if this is not agreed by the end of March, the Community Fund would go to a third party to administer.
- The meeting on the 29th January 2015 was cancelled.
- Mr Mike Hulme is still fighting the noise condition.
- RES have indicated they are not willing to put the LED money to the community funding, anything left from the money allocated for LED will go to the community fund.
- Two of RES's turbines have collapsed recently.
- It appears that two turbines are close to the railway line, and that no safety assessment was carried out at the planning stage.

4.4 Cllr N Morgan (WDBC Ward Member) was not in attendance.

4.5 Cllr I MacLeod gave an update regarding the North Tawton Engagement Group. On 19th February 2015 a meeting is to be held with the Practice Manager at Bow regarding margining the two Patient Participation Groups and what are the criteria if Bow Medical Practice wish to take over the North Tawton practice permanently, and details of how the practice will be run.

5. Ongoing issues

The 'Action Log' was updated:

Snow/Ice Warden – Cllr S Whiteley updated the Council on the Town Council's Insurance. DCC insure Cllr S Whiteley, and NTTC insurance covers Councillors, but now cover has been added for the 15 people that are not Councillors, the insurance company have waived the premium of £12.17 for this year. It was resolved that the extra sum for of £12.17 should be included for premium when the insurance is renewed.

Market Street Junction/Traffic speeds and other highways issues – Devon County Council have upheld the Town Council's complaint regarding no response being received from Rhys Davis regarding the signage at De Bathe Cross, but a response from Rhys Davis has still not been received. The Clerk was requested to contact Rhys Davis again and also point out that £1,000 for improved signage was included in the Section 106 agreement for Wainhomes.

The Clerk was requested to contact Steve Dawe asking about the possibility of railings/barrier at the junction of Market Street/The Square. The Clerk was also requested to contact Devon County Council regarding 20 mph speed limit in the town.

Confirmation has been received from WDBC stating that Mr Stephen Blackman owned the Old Crawford's yard. This information would be passed to the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group for information as they were investigating possible extra car parking areas.

Flooding Problems – the drain clearance by ExJet is to be carried out by the end of March. The Clerk requested some help to get maps of the streets marked showing the position of the drains, as the driver from Exeter was not familiar with the area.

Devon Youth Service Review - £200 grant had been allocated for the Youth Club, and a submission for further funding has also been submitted.

Dog Control Order – West Devon have agreed to enforce the Dogs on Leads Order for Letherans Lane, signs would be put up shortly. The signs for the Memorial Park were being planned, but enforcement of the Exclusion of Dogs cannot be enforced on the designated public footpath that runs from the top of High Street across the Memorial Park to Barton Street.

6. Consultations/Newsletters

Update from NHS – Urgency and Necessary Measures , previously circulated, was noted.

7. Recycling Project

Two volunteers have now come forward to be involved in the Recycling Project and some members of the Environmental Trust may be interested. The Clerk was requested to include this item on the Agenda for the 3rd March 2015 meeting.

8. TAP funding

The matter of TAP funding. (Deadline for submission of application 14th February 2015) was discussed.

Due to the fact that the deadline for submission was on the 14th February 2015, it was resolved that Councillors should consider any ideas for a future TAP fund application in June.

9. West Devon Borough Council – Mayoral Awards

The WDBC Annual West Devon Mayoral Awards, previously circulated was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that Cllr Mrs G Hoggins should be nominated for this award.

10. Police and Crime Plan 2015/16

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Review for 2015/16, previously circulated was noted.

11. Access to rear of properties via Flood Alleviation Land, North Street, North Tawton

The matter of what action was required regarding alleged access to rear of properties in Fore Street via the Flood Alleviation Lane, North Street, North Tawton, was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should write to West Devon Borough Council and the Environment Agency to inform them that the Town Council are very concerned that it appears access has been given to someone in Fore Street to access the rear of their property via the flood alleviation land in North Street. A mini digger was driven across the flood alleviation land to access the rear of a property in Fore Street, in doing so the mini digger crossed the stream, demolished a Devon Bank, which is the boundary to North Tawton's Conservation Area, this area is also designated as Important Open Space as the area is Burgage plots. The owner of the property appears to have encroached onto Environment Agency land to increase the size of the garden. The Town Council would like to

know whether the Environment Agency/West Devon Borough Council has changed the policy to allow people to access the rear of properties in Fore Street via this land.

12. PLANNING MATTERS

To consider the planning applications received from West Devon Borough Council and to make recommendations.

12.1 01481/2014

Highridge Farm, North Tawton, EX20 2DQ

Removal of Condition (L) attached to planning consent 00/7645 to removal the agricultural occupancy.

After some discussion it was resolved to conform that a neutral view should be submitted.

12.2 00097/2015

Higher Nichols Nymett Farm, North Tawton, EX20 2DP

Listed Building application for remedial works and new structural support to roof

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

12.3 00137/2015

Pine Lodge, North Tawton, EX20 2AB

Demolition of existing kitchen/utility room and erection of single storey extension

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

12.4 00152/2015

5 Gostwyck Close, North Tawton, EX20 2HR

Householder application for a single storey porch to the front of dwellinghouse

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

12.5 01017/2014

Change of use of outbuilding to a single dwelling with parking

Ashridge Court, Ashridge Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DH

Conditional consent 23/1/15

Noted.

12.6 Neighbourhood Plan

A verbal report regarding how North Tawton Town Council should consider planning applications taking account of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan was given.

After some discussion it was resolved that a pre-meeting of the Planning Committee would be held to acquaint Councillors with the plans and associated documents, this would not be predetermination, the applications would be debated at the meeting in the normal way.

12.7 WDBC's Our Plan – Consultation response

Cllr Dr. P Brickley gave a verbal report regarding WDBC's Our Plan consultation. He said that his comments should not be taken to relate to the whole of WDBC's Our Plan. He was reporting he emphasised, on the items that West Devon had specifically mentioned in their request for draft responses; that is to say, in relation to the matters mentioned in the draft advice that he gave on behalf of the Project Group at the last meeting. He confirmed that the Project Group had voted unanimously at their meeting on the 22 January 2015, to support the draft advice offered by Cllr Brickley, to the Town Council at the last Council meeting.

For the record, this supported WDBC's position concerning

- the importance for the town of employment land,

- the partial removal of settlement boundaries,
- the minimum planned requirement for North Tawton, i.e. that

provided the wool mill site went ahead for housing there would be no further planning requirement for five years and only sixty dwellings for the ten years that followed that; for clarity, that is to say, yrs. 1-5 = 0, yrs. 6-15 = 60, provided the wool mill completes as currently planned. If it doesn't do this, then NTTC would be expected to offer alternative sites, during the next five years, for the 62 dwellings currently planned for the wool mill.

It was resolved that the above response should be sent to West Devon Borough Council.

13. FINANCE

13.1 Invoices. Members inspected the invoices and bank statements and appropriate payments were made in accordance with bank mandate.

13.2 Monthly statement – Members received the monthly statement and agreed to make the appropriate transfer from the reserve account to the current account to allow payments to be made. Cllr I MacLeod confirmed that the Bank Statement had been checked, but the Clerk had not been able to do a full reconciliation of the accounts, due to other work commitments.

13.3 Torrridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau

The grant request received from the Citizens Advice Bureau, previously circulated, was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that a grant of £150 should be awarded, for the support of the Okehampton CAB.

13.4 War Stock

HM Treasury have announced that 3½% War Stock will be redeemed in its entirety on 9th March 2015, previously circulated.
Noted.

14. Questions/Comments from members of the public

The meeting was suspended prior to Any Other Business to allow members of the public to comment/ask a question. Time shall be limited up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

No members of the public raised any issues, but Mr and Mrs Ratcliffe volunteered to mark a map of the drains in Butts Way and Gostwyck Close. The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Ratcliffe.

15. Parish Matters

Cllr Mrs C Burrow commented on the NatWest mobile bank now visiting North Tawton and the fact that the posters advertising this were very small. The Clerk stated that she had received a telephone call from NatWest requesting permission for reserved parking for the visits. The Clerk informed NatWest that North Tawton Town Council are not the highways authority and suggested that they contact Devon County Council. The Clerk further informed them that the library van parked on double yellow lines outside the Council offices and perhaps they had a dispensation from Devon County Council. After some discussion the Clerk was asked to contact NatWest to request some larger posters.

Cllr Dr P Brickley stated that the next Eastern Links meeting was on the 12th March 2015 and asked Cllr S Blood if he was going to attend.

Cllr S Whiteley commented on the apparent danger of the entrance road to the new Wainhomes development, being on the brow of the hill.

Cllr S Blood stated that Devon Heartlands, Dartmoor Community Rail and Peninsular Rail Tasks Force were going to look at the rail network for the whole of the peninsular, and Cllr S

Blood had suggested that North Tawton Town Council should be invited to be involved. Cllr S Blood also stated that he had been told by a member of Okehampton Town Council that North Tawton Town Council did not appear to be interested in the reopening of a railway station at North Tawton.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be Tuesday 3rd March 2015

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.